

different chemical compositions.[-]

AI  
cont  
[Amend the paragraph on page 4, line 24, as follows:]

[-]Preferably, the outer layer is made of a weatherable, thermoplastic polymeric material. The outer layer advantageously is substantially solid. As used herein, the term "weatherable" refers to the ability or property of a material to effectively withstand the conditions of an out-of-doors environment for a long period of time, for example, at least about five years and preferably at least about seven years or longer. Specific examples of polymers which can be used as the outer layer include, without limitation, polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/ acrylic polymeric materials, and the like and mixtures or combinations thereof.[-]

[Amend the paragraph on page 5, line 1, as follows:]

[-]Preferably, the second material comprises a solid thermoplastic polymeric material or a thermoplastic polymeric material foam or combinations thereof, and an effective amount of a filler. Suitable polymeric materials for the core layer include, without limitation, polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric materials, acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene polymeric materials, and the like and mixtures or combinations thereof. Any suitable filler component may be present in any of the layers of the present composites. Such filler component or components preferably are effective to add bulk and/or strength and/or reinforcement and/or stability to the layer and/or composite. Examples of useful filler components include, without limitation, wood, mica, talc, calcium carbonate, graphite or carbon, for example, in the form of particles, such as fibers, and the like and mixtures thereof. A

A1  
cont

filler component is particularly advantageous in the core layer, while the inner layer and/or outer layer preferably and substantially free of filler component. Preferably, the filler component of the core layer material comprises a wood component such as, but not limited to, wood particles, for example, wood shavings, wood chips, wood flour and the like and mixtures thereof. This use of a wood component advantageously provides a effective filler without unduly increasing the weight or cost of the composite. E-3

[Amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 27, as follows:]

E-3 The inner layer is circumscribed by the core layer and defines or bounds the hollow space of the composite. The inner layer can be made of a thermoplastic material which need not be weatherable, but preferably is effectively impact resistant. The inner layer is preferably substantially solid. Examples of materials that are suitable as the third polymeric material include, without limitation, polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/butadiene/ styrene polymeric materials and the like and mixtures or combinations thereof. -

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 31, as follows:

A2

-] Preferably, the outer layer 12 is comprised of a relatively thin layer of solid "weatherable" polymeric material. Suitable weatherable materials for the outer layer 12 include, without limitation, thermoplastic polymeric materials, such as polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic ("ASA") polymeric materials and the like, and mixtures, combinations or alloys thereof. The presently useful ASA polymeric materials can be made using any suitable methodology. See, for example, Hughes U.S. Patent 5,883,191; Yu et al U.S. Patent 3,944,631; Aliberto et al.

A2  
cond.

U.S. Patent 4,517,339; Ting U.S. Patent 4,731,414; Ting U.S. Patent 4,831,079; and Moringa et al. U.S. Patent 4,151,226. The disclosure of each of these patents is hereby incorporated in its entirety herein by reference. Such ASA polymeric materials may be physical blends or mixtures of styrene/acrylonitrile copolymers and acrylic polymers and copolymers; acrylonitrile/ styrene/acrylic terpolymers, interpolymers including styrene-based units, acrylonitrile-based units and acrylic-based units, and the like and mixtures and combinations thereof.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 29, as follows:

A3

--The inner layer 16, which bounds the generally central, hollow space 20 of the composite member 10, can be made of any suitable thermoplastic material, preferably a solid thermoplastic material, which need not be weatherable, but preferably is effectively impact resistant for providing strength during fence assembly and/or use. Examples of polymeric materials that are useful for inclusion in the inner layer 16, include, without limitation, polyvinylchloride, acrylonitrile/ butadiene/styrene polymeric materials, and the like and mixtures, alloys or combinations thereof.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 16, as follows:

A4

--The wood-filled thermoplastic material is provided in an extrudable form by subjecting a mixture of, for example, acrylonitrile/styrene/acrylic polymeric material and wood particles, to conditions effective to produce a substantially uniform, flowable or extrudable composition. Such conditions are described in detail in incorporated Hughes U.S. patent No. 6,133,349, and can generally include for example, elevated temperature conditions, elevated pressure conditions, shear or